

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 36, allowed claims 1-29 and 44-64 and rejected claims 30-35 and 40-43. Claims 31, 32, 34, 36, 40 and 41 are amended, and claims 30, 42 and 43 are cancelled without prejudice. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 1-29, 31-41, and 44-64 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW:

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct an Interview, and respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned if any unresolved issues remain in order to expedite prosecution of the application.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

On page 6 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-29 and 44-64 are allowed, and claim 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 36 is written to be in independent form and includes all features of intervening claim 30. Further, claims 37-39 depend from claim 36, and thus are allowable.

Therefore, claims 1-29, 36-39 and 44-64 are allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claim 30-35 and 37-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,650,737 (Finnigan). As mentioned above, claims 30, 42 and 43 are cancelled herein without prejudice.

Claims 31-35 and 40-41 are amended herein to depend from allowable claim 36, and thus are also allowable. Claims 37-39 depend from now allowable claim 36.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 07/16/2007

By: 
Temnit Afework
Registration No. 58,202

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501